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Committee of the Whole Meeting
8 February 1954
Santiago, Chile

PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES - 1953/54

Introduction

The Executive Secretary would like to call the attention of the Committee of the Whole to resolution 497 C (XVI) of the Economic and Social Council, which requests the Commissions to review their programmes for 1955 " (a) in the light of the criteria for priorities established under Council resolution 324 (XI), (b) in accordance with the procedures for indicating priorities outlined under Council resolution 402 B (XIII) and (c) in the light of the United Nations priority programmes listed under Council resolution 451 A (XIV).'

The basic work programme established by the Commission at its meeting in Mexico in June 1951 was continued and amplified at the Rio de Janeiro meeting in April 1953. At the beginning of the fifth session in Rio de Janeiro the Executive Secretary presented a comprehensive statement on the policy of the Council, as set forth in resolutions 324 (XI), 402 B (XIII) and 451 A (XIV). This statement (document E/CN.12/310) is made available to the Committee of the Whole for its information.

The Commission, taking into full account the Council policy and the United Nations system of priorities, formulated its programme so as to concentrate work on problems which are of most immediate concern to the governments of the region and gave to the Executive Secretary discretion to adapt the programme to circumstances as they may arise and to the staff and other resources available to him. Since the resources were not sufficient to cover the whole programme, it was necessary for the Executive Secretary to delay work on some projects which, although important, have less priority. In resolution 362 B (XII), adopted in March 1951, the Council stated that "... the question of economic development of under-developed countries in all its aspects is ... a problem to which the Council must give most urgent attention ...". In accordance with this resolution, the resources of ECLA have been centred principally on problems related to the technique of programming economic development and the need to accelerate the rate of growth, both by means of industrial and agricultural expansion and the promotion of inter-regional and international trade.

In carrying out its programme the Commission has collaborated with and has had the full collaboration of other agencies, thereby ensuring a maximum utilization of resources and international funds.

/In accordance

In accordance with Council resolution 402 B (XIII), the programme of work has, as in previous years, been divided into three groups:

- a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority in which the responsibility of the Secretariat, in accordance with the Commission's terms of reference and resolutions, is of a continuing character. The studies and reports in this category are intended to be presented from time to time; although each study may differ from and supplement the others in scope (country coverage), substance (different aspects of major problems) and time (development during a given period);
- b) Ad hoc projects of high priority, for which an approximate duration can be estimated. In accordance with the recommendation of the Council and its Co-ordinating Committee, an approximate estimate as to the probable duration of ad hoc projects is indicated, except in the case of meetings of experts and conferences, where probable date of holding them is given;
- c) Other projects which, in view of budgetary or other limitations, may have to be deferred or eliminated, or undertaken insofar as resources permit, although their value to the countries of the region may be considerable.

ANNOTATED LIST OF PROJECTS

Corresponding 1/
paragraph in
Progress Report
(E/CN.12/AC.24/2/Rev.1)

Section I. Economic Growth and Technique of Programming

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

1. General problems of economic development and technique of programming - Resolutions 7 (IV), 48 (V)

- (a) Continuation of the analysis of the technique of programming started in a study presented in document E/CN.12/292, with particular reference to the application of this technique.

Report will be ready for publication in September 1954 19 and 20

- (b) Country studies: the method and analysis used in document E/CN.12/292 will be applied in making other country studies.

Report will be ready for publication in March 1955 21 - 23

2. Monetary and fiscal policies relative to the requirements of economic development - Resolutions 3 (IV), 52 (V)

Analyses of government receipts and expenditures; special analysis of taxation and other sources of revenue; and influence of government credit and fiscal policies and exchange and trade controls on consumption and investment in the various sectors of the economy.

This forms part of country studies under 1 (b) above. 19 and 24

1/ The work programme shown in part I of the Progress Report (E/CN.12/AC.24/2/Rev.1) contains an account of the work being done on various projects. The reference numbers shown in the column on the right relate to paragraphs in the Progress Report. Reference is omitted when no work has been initiated.

3. Studies of economic development in individual countries
Resolutions 8 (IV), 49 (V)

The purpose of these studies is to analyse long-term trends and problems of economic growth, with a view that these studies may be useful not only in formulating government policies but also that they may provide the basic data and materials for the application of technique of programming in the preparation of development plans.

This is combined with studies being made under 1 and 2 above.

21 - 23

4. Economic Integration

(a) Economic integration and reciprocity in Central America - Resolutions 9, 24 (IV), 50 (V)

Work is continuing in accordance with above resolutions and resolutions of the Committee on Economic Co-operation in Central America

66 - 82

(b) Preliminary investigation of problems of progressive integration of Latin American economies - Resolution 55 (V)

No specific study required on this resolution. (See resolution 55 (V) in document E/2405 (E/CN.12/324)).

5. Training programme for economists - Resolutions 4 (IV), 48 (V)

Continuation of training programme organized for selected groups of Latin American economists to work with ECLA economists on theoretical and practical problems of economic development and technique of programming.

28 - 33

Second course completed in December 1953; third course will be initiated in April 1954.

/6. Technical

Corresponding
paragraph in
Progress Report
(E/CN.12/AC.24/2/Rev.1)

6. Technical research and training in Latin America
Resolutions 13 (IV), 53 (V)

Extension of a study made in Chile (see E/CN.12/300) to a group of selected Latin American countries, with particular reference to the relationship between technological research institutes and institutions for training technicians.

Work has not been initiated due to lack of resources; it is planned to carry this work forward on a limited scale during 1954.

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority

7. Expert conference, including working parties, on problems of economic development and the technique of programming (with co-operation of TAA - Resolutions 7 (IV), 48 (V)).

This conference is planned for 1956, and will bring together a group of Latin American economists who are directly concerned with problems of economic development in their respective countries. A small number of economists from outside the region will also be invited to participate. The main subject will be the technique of programming of economic development and the role of monetary and fiscal policies, based on the work of the Commission and other international agencies, special papers prepared by participants, and the experiences of countries having development programmes. For selected aspects of the problem small working parties may be established in advance of or during the conference.

8. Conference on monetary and fiscal policies (in cooperation with TAA and the International Monetary Fund) - Resolutions 3 (IV), 48 (V)

This conference will bring together a small group of economists and specialists for intensive discussion of monetary and fiscal policies as instruments of economic development policy, with special reference to their bearing on the rate of economic growth. The documentation for the meeting will be prepared mainly by the secretariats of ECLA and the Fund.

Studies are being prepared by the ECLA Secretariat as a part of project 1 (b) above; other studies are being made by the Secretariat of the Fund.

This conference may be combined with project No. 7 above.

9. Influence of taxation on private capital exports Resolutions 3 (IV), 52 (V)

Continuation of a study started with document E/CN.12/298 and Add.1 and 2, taking into account economic aspects of the problem as well as fiscal. Studies of taxation in capital exporting countries, will be followed by a series of studies in capital importing countries.

This has been discussed with the Fiscal Division of the UN Department of Economic Affairs but no work has been started pending certain studies that are being made by the governments involved.

10. Transportation problems - Resolution 38 (AC.16)

Study on obstacles to and requirements for economic development.

Corresponding
paragraph in
Progress Report
(E/CN.12/AC.24/2/Rev.1)

Work on transportation problems has been confined to the Central American programme - report on Transport in Central America, document E/CN.12/356, was published in September 1953. Further work in this field, particularly in South America, will depend on the ability to recruit qualified staff, including Chief of the Transportation Section.

66 - 70

(c) Other projects

11. Economic and legal status of foreign investments in Latin America - Resolution 8 (IV)

Final report now being revised and will be ready for publication in July 1954.

65

12. Relation of migration to economic development 1/ Resolution 6 (IV)

This will be an intensive study based on a field investigation in a selected area which is in process of rapid economic growth, with particular reference to its capacity for absorption of migrants, especially from foreign countries.

Consultations have been held with TAA and other interested agencies with a view to initiating work on this project during the latter part of 1954.

13. Study of organization and structure of capital markets in Latin America - Resolution 3 (IV)

This project has been deferred.

14. Cyclical fluctuations in Latin America (E/CN.12/190)

This project has been deferred.

1/ This study was recommended by the Inter-Agency Regional Co-ordination Committee on Migration (see E/CN.12/323).

Section II. Economic Problems of Agriculture (with the
collaboration of FAO)

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

15. Factors affecting agricultural production
Resolutions 7, 14 (IV), 61 (V)

This series of studies was started with one made in the Central Valley of Chile using sampling methods (see E/CN.12/306) and will be followed by applying similar methods, including field investigations in specific areas, in other countries in order to develop more fully an analysis and understanding of factors which influence incentives for increasing productivity and volume of production.

Work not initiated due to lack of staff resources.

16. Agricultural development in individual countries
Resolutions 7, 14 (IV), 62 (V)

Continuation of a series of studies begun in 1952, the purpose of which is to make known and analyse basic economic aspects of agricultural development and thus provide background material for the development policy and technical improvements in agriculture.

Work is being done in connexion with economic development studies in selected countries.

17. Agricultural credit and regional seminars - Resolutions
14 (IV), 65 (V)

The secretariat's studies on agricultural credit were made for Central American countries, and were presented to the meeting of experts held in Guatemala in September-October 1952. These studies will be continued for other Latin American countries, to be

/followed by

Corresponding
paragraph in
Progress Report
(E/CN.12/AC.24/2/Rev.1)

followed by regional meetings of agricultural credit experts.

Final report on Agricultural Credit in Central America will be published in March 1954.

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority

18. Study of coffee production and trade in relation to economic development - Resolution 63 (V)

The study on coffee would consider especially the economic aspects of production, processing and trade which are more directly connected with the problem of economic growth. It would refer to specific producing areas utilizing not only available statistics, but also will be based on field surveys in order to obtain certain facts, especially those connected with productivity of labour, the trends in tree plantings and in production, in consumption and future capacity of the foreign markets to absorb Latin American coffee exports. The study would be made in collaboration with FAO and other international agencies interested.

No work initiated due to lack of resources but consultations are being held with FAO and IA-ECOSOC on the possibility of making a thorough and comprehensive study of this commodity.

19. Investigation of agricultural statistical systems and methodology in Latin America - Resolution 64 (V)

The studies would appraise the available statistics and methodology employed by the Latin American countries in order that ECLA and FAO may be in a better position to interpret the results of statistical analysis in the preparation of its studies of economic problems of

/agriculture

agriculture with special reference to the problems of economic development. The results of these surveys would be referred to FAO and other agencies in order that appropriate measures may be taken to improve agricultural statistics in Latin America. The studies will be made in collaboration with FAO and IASI. Consultations have been held with the interested agencies, but no further step has been taken.

(c) Other projects

20. Study of economic and technological problems of the banana industry (with co-operation of FAO) - Resolution 67 (V)

This project has been deferred.

21. Study of production, industrialization and export markets of hard fibres (with co-operation of FAO) Resolution 68 (V).

This project has been deferred.

Section III. Industry and Mining

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

22. Iron and steel industries - Resolutions 10 (IV), 57 (V)

- (a) Studies of Latin American steel production costs and investments;
- (b) Studies of production costs, investments and incentives in the iron and steel transforming industries;
- (c) Collection, analysis and dissemination of specialized statistics and technological documentation;
- (d) Compilation and unification of terminology, norms and standards as applicable in the region.

/Work has

Corresponding
paragraph in
Progress Report
(E/CN.12/AC.24/2/Rev.1)

Work has been confined principally to the study based on field investigation of the iron and steel transforming industries; report will be ready in December 1954 34 - 40

23. Pulp and paper industries (studies to be undertaken in co-operation with FAO) - Resolutions 10 (IV), 58 (V)

The preliminary report (E/CN.12/294) will be followed by studies listed below:

- (a) Economic and technological investigation of the utilization of Latin American tropical and sub-tropical woods for the manufacture of pulp and paper;
- (b) Study of the possibilities of establishing other forest industries integrated with the manufacture of pulp and paper;
- (c) Study of local and export markets for Latin American pulp and paper, as well as for the products of the integrated forest industries;
- (d) Economic and technological investigation of the possibility of utilization of sugar-cane bagasse for the manufacture of pulp and paper in Latin America.

These studies will be ready during the months from May to September 1954.

41 - 49

24. Studies of the heavy chemical industries - Resolutions 10 (IV), 59 (V)

- (a) Surveys on the existing industry in Latin America;
- (b) Analyses of imports of chemicals and investigation of the possibility of establishing industries producing import substitutes;
- (c) Availability of raw materials in the region and technical and economic problems related to their utilization.

/Work has

Work has started on a preliminary study to be ready for the Sixth Session at Bogotá, Colombia, in May 1955 50

25. Development of energy resources - Resolutions 38 (AC.16), 60 (V)

A preliminary overall survey of energy resources, utilization and requirements of energy has been initiated; report will be ready in March 1955 52 - 55

26. Mining - Resolution 57 (V)

Compilation of data on estimated reserves of ores of non-ferrous metals. Analysis of demand trends for non-ferrous metals, and economic and technical problems related to mining and non-ferrous metallic ores, their preparation, smelting and refining.

Work has not been initiated due to lack of staff resources.

27. Collection and classification of data available on non-agricultural natural resources in Latin America, and publication of inventories of resources - Resolution 60 (V)

Work has not been initiated due to lack of staff resources.

(b) Ad hoc projects of high priority

28. Expert conference, including working parties, on iron and steel industry (in co-operation with TAA) - Resolutions 10 (IV), 57 (V)

The conference would be attended by qualified experts from Latin America and a few experts from outside the region and might be preceded by technical working parties; on the basis of technical papers prepared by the secretariat and specialists, the conference would facilitate exchange of experiences

Corresponding
paragraph in
Progress Report
(E/CN.12/AG.24/2/Rev.1)

on: economics of the blast furnace as influenced by iron ore preparation, increase of temperature and pressure of blast, etc.; production of ferro-alloys; new iron ore reduction methods other than the blast furnace; influence of use of oxygen in converters and on resulting steels; norms and specification for steels; cost structure of selected steel transforming industries.

No work has been initiated, nor date set for this conference.

29. Expert conference, including working parties, on pulp and paper industry - Resolutions 10 (IV), 58 (V)

Meeting of experts on pulp and paper (in co-operation with TAA and FAO), to discuss problems arising from material assembled and reports prepared by the secretariat and by specialized working groups.

Preparation for the meeting to be held in September-October 1954 is well advanced.

48 - 50

30. Studies of possibilities of establishing processing industries utilizing domestically produced raw materials, with particular reference to expansion of intra-regional and international trade - Resolution 46 (V)

Work has not been initiated due to lack of staff.

(c) Other projects

31. Food processing industries - Resolution 10 (IV)

This project has been deferred.

32. Textile industry - Resolution 11 (IV)

This project has been deferred.

Section IV. International Trade

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

33. Trade between Latin America and United States and Europe - Resolutions 18, 21 (IV), 45 (V).

Study of probable future trends of demand for primary products exported by Latin America and of changes in the composition of Latin American imports which will affect the type of goods (especially capital goods) European and North American countries may expect to export to Latin America.

As stated in paragraph 62 of the Progress Reports, the Secretariat is in consultation with the Secretariat of the ECE with respect to a project on expansion of trade between Latin America and Europe, as a follow up of A Study of Trade between Latin America and Europe, which was published last year. The Secretariat is also planning a study of long-term trade trends and problems of Latin America with the United States, Canada and individual European countries.

62

34. Inter-Latin American trade studies - Resolutions 20 (IV), 69 (V)

- (a) Problems of commercial policy; implications of GATT for intra-regional trade; payments and exchange controls as applied to inter-Latin American trade; import-export controls and administrative procedures;
- (b) Possibilities of increasing demand and trade within the region for Latin American raw materials and manufactures;
- (c) Problems of maritime transport in relation to inter-Latin American trade.

Corresponding
paragraph in
Progress Report
(E/CN.12/AC.24/2/Rev.1)

Work is progressing satisfactorily; report will be ready for publication in February 1955.

63 - 64

35. Studies of the terms of trade and their influence on the rate of economic development - Resolutions 18, 22 (IV), 46 (V)

The scope and character of these studies will follow the detailed recommendations contained in the resolution adopted by the fifth session.

Work on a paper on theoretical aspects of this problem is in progress.

56 - 58

(b) Ad hoc project of high priority

36. Study of multilateral compensation settlements among Latin American countries and between Latin American and European countries - Resolutions 42 (AC.16), 47 (V)

This is a continuation of a study presented to the fifth session (E/CN.12/299). It is proposed to make an exhaustive analysis of trade and payments between Latin America and Europe and among Latin American countries.

As a result of consultations with the Secretariat of the International Monetary Fund, a study on the flow of international payments of a number of Latin American countries is being undertaken by the IMF with the collaboration of ECLA.

(c) Other projects

37. Tourism - Resolution 56 (V)

Study of means for removing obstacles to expansion of tourist trade.

This project has been deferred.

/38. Study on

38. Study on operation of Free Zone of Colon, Panama
Resolution 25 (IV)

This project has been deferred.

Section V. Annual "Economic Survey" and Quarterly "Economic Bulletin"

(a) Continuing projects and activities of high priority

39. Annual Economic Survey of Latin America - Resolutions
7 (IV), 44 (V)

The Economic Survey of Latin America for 1953 will be ready for publication in June 1954

10 - 18

40. Quarterly Economic Bulletin - Resolution 32 (IV)

Material is being prepared for the first issue which will appear in late 1954.